



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**
Celebrating 27 Years of Advocacy & Achievement

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April 18, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia Curry, Chair 
Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families

RE: AB 12 AND HOUSING FOR TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH

The Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB 12) was signed into law on September 30, 2010 and became effective on January 1, 2012. One of the provisions of this legislation allows states to extend foster care to the age of 21 for young adults who meet the federal participation criteria after age 18. The goal of this legislation is to improve outcomes for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) moving out of the child welfare system, offering them the opportunity to thrive in young adulthood.

Housing and associated programs for TAY are critical components for successful outcomes for this vulnerable population. Through AB 12, a new foster care placement option, the THP-Plus-FC (THP+FC) Program, is being created for TAY. This program will offer similar housing models and supportive services currently available through the THP-Plus Program.

The Commission feels that immediate input is crucial in order that the specifics of the THP+FC are not determined by the State without County input. Therefore, the Commission respectfully requests that: 1) the Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation along with local transitional housing experts, advocates and key stakeholders, develop program recommendations; and 2) your Honorable Board communicates with the State officials, developing AB 12 implementation guidelines, on which transitional housing program elements would be best suited for TAY of Los Angeles County.

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Thank you for your continued support and consideration of this important request to enhance the outcomes of the TAY population in Los Angeles County. The Commission respectfully requests that you keep us apprised of any action taken by your Board. Please contact me if you have any questions, or if the Commission can assist in the process.

PC:ma

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Probation Officer
Director, Department of Children and Family Services
County Counsel
Children's Deputies

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